(a) whether it is a fact that some railway lines run through protected wildlife sanctuaries and that some animals have died while crossing them;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents and the number of casualities in the last three years;

(c) whether Government have discussed the issue with Railway Ministry to avoid the use of such railway lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how Government would ensure that animals can safely cross railway lines without any danger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) :(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information available for the major species, 1 tiger and 16 elephants have died in 10 such accidents during last three years;

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The issue was taken up with the railway authorities for necessary prevention measures like fencing and imposing a speed limit on trains passing through wildlife habitats.

Approval for production of Bt crop

†3200. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any policy decision with regard to accord approval for production of Bt. crop in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons and basis of taking such a decision;

(c) names of Bt. crops which have been granted approval for their production in the country; and

(d) names of Institutions which have been granted approval for production of such crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) the genetic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

engineering approval committee (GEAC) set up under rule 4 of the rules for manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro organisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is following a policy of case by case approval of transgenic crops taking into consideration the impact on biodiversity, human health etc;

(c) and (d) Bt. cotton developed by mahco is the first and only transgenic crop approved by the GEAC for commercial cultivation in India.

Import of genetically modified food

3201. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow imports of Genetically Modified (GM) food on a case-by-case basis;

(b) if so, whether top nutrition experts have expressed fears that there are no systems as of now to adequately assess the risk or ever to detect unapproved genetic modifications as reported in the media;

(c) whether Government have adopted any cautions approach in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) The Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage Of Hazardous Micro Organisms Genetically Engineered Organisms Or Cells, 1989, framed under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provide that all food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.

(b) The presence or absence of different transgenic DNA/proteins in the food samples can be ascertained at the laboratories existing at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore; National Bureau of Plant Genetic Research (NBPGR), New Delhi; Centre for DNA